(19) World Intellectual Property **Organization**

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/077843 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

C02F 5/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2005/000427

- (22) International Filing Date: 7 February 2005 (07.02.2005)
- English (25) Filing Language:
- English (26) Publication Language:
- (30) Priority Data:

0402696.9 7 February 2004 (07.02.2004) GB

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except MN, US): RECKITT BENCKISER N.V. [NL/NL]; Kantoorgebouw De Appelaer, De Fruittuinen 2-12, NL-2132 NZ Hoofddorp (NL).
- (71) Applicant (for MN only): RECKITT BENCKISER (UK) LIMITED [GB/GB]; 103-105 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3UH (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): AYATS, Francesc [ES/ES]; Reckitt Benckiser (Espana) SL, C/ Mataro, 28, Granollers, E-08400 Barcelona (ES). CORRADINI, Fabio [IT/IT]; Reckitt Benckiser Italia, Piazza S. Nicolo 12/3, I-30034 Mira (IT). LAING, Mark [GB/IT]; Reckitt Benckiser Italia, Piazza S. Nicolo 12/3, I-30034 VE Mira (IT).

- (74) Agents: BOWERS, Craig, M. et al.; Intellectual Property Departement- Patent Group, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS (GB).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: WATER-SOFTENING METHOD

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a method of water-softening using a water-softening product and products useful in such methods. The invention describes such products and processes wherein a change to the product occurs during 10 the water-softening process.